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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Akira GYOUTOKU et al.

Group Art Unit : 2861

Appl No : 10/726,594

Examiner : Hai C. PHAM

Filed : December 4, 2003

Confirmation No.: 6999

For : IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AF  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Final Official Action of April 5, 2006, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on July 5, 2006, but to which Applicants are responding by the two-month date of June 5, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Final Official Action in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this Response.

**Remarks** begin on page 11 of this Response.